

God created us all free to choose between good and evil, life or death in other words. He has also made it clear on the necessity to choose, as well as what to expect from our choices.

How so?

Deuteronomy 30:15-16: "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply."

Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life."

John 3:36: "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Proverbs 14:27: "The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, to turn *one* away from the snares of death."

Therefore:

1Peter 3:10-11: "He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it." Have I made the choice to seek life through following Christ, or am I still sitting on the fence?

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

What more did Jesus add about Him being the source of eternal life? John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 10:10: "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."

John 11:25: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

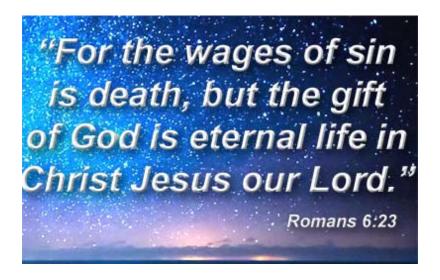
The reason scripture adds:

Acts 4:12: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Romans 5:10: "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life."

Finally:

Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Do I understand that life eternal is only available through believing in, and following Christ?



In life, we either choose to live by the will of God and follow Christ, or we choose to live by the flesh and reject God, as scripture declares: Romans 6:16: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?"

Ephesians 4:21-24: "Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."

Romans 6:4: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

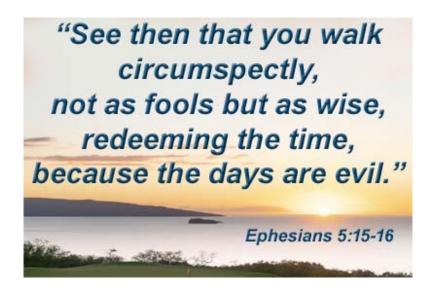
Why?

Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

Do I understand the importance of making the choice to live to follow Christ?



How must we live, day by day, so the light of Christ shines through our lives to the glory of God?

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

2Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

2Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

1Timothy 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Then Jesus' command:

Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

How brightly does the light of Christ shine in my life right now?

"For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction."

Psalm 1:6

What happens to those who follow the traps and deceptions of the world rather than choosing life through Christ, and why?

James 1:14-15: "Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." 1Timothy 4:1-2: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."

2Corinthians 4:3-4: "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

Therefore:

Romans 6:16: "Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living."

Am I truly following Christ, or am I rather blinded and controlled by the gods of this world?

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

Indeed, Christ reigns and rules in the hearts of those who put their trust in Him. Then, what blessings does God reserve for those who follow Christ as Lord?

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Psalm 1:1-3: "Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Psalm 23:1-4: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me."

Jeremiah 17:7: "Blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence."

Does Christ rule in my heart as Lord, so His peace rests on me in all circumstances of life?